

Summary of Participant Evaluations
ACES Speed Mentoring Event at Research ShowCase
April 12th, 2007

22 participants rated the event on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent):

Usefulness of the program	4.48
Quality of feedback from Speed Mentors	4.52
Overall reaction to the event	4.48

Qualitative comments received included:

What was particularly useful to you?

- Being able to ask specific questions to a qualified professional who did not know me (nothing preconceived)
- The diversity of feedback on my CV; careers in academia vs. industry
- I can learn all the important aspects I need to know for career development
- Being able to talk to people outside my department
- Meeting a variety of professional researchers and other people with experience and insights to offer
- Meeting several faculty
- It was very helpful that there were mentors with different backgrounds
- Varying perspectives of mentors available
- The advice given to me for both high school and college
- Finding out who to talk to for various interests
- Talking to different people and getting slightly different perspectives about my resume and career questions
- Advice on where to look for jobs. I had never considered govt labs!
- To discuss career goals with someone with a similar background
- Focus on importance of publications
- One-on-one time with a mentor; getting to choose who to go to was especially helpful
- Advice regarding the interview process and what employers are looking for
- The mentors I talked with gave me their business cards and offered to help me give talks and find a lab for a post doc
- Prof. Ornt's advice about considering post doc positions; getting more academic background and research
- Meeting with the computer science professor
- Having the opportunity to speak with someone about my future plans
- Getting advice on other places to look for help as far as researching career options
- I learned one thing that I think is important – focus on the work, not worry about anything

What career development actions will you take in the next few months based on the feedback received at this event?

- Do more research into the areas I am trying to break into

I am only in my first semester of my PhD so the main thing is to reorganize my CV
I need to think clearly about my future plans, improve my English/communication skills
Ask more department people for advice; apply for visiting positions
I am hopefully going to take the GRE and pursue grad school
Networking
Research companies that I may want to work for
More overt conversations with my mentor about my goals and my role in lab (place I work)
To get ready to choose my majors in college and how to prepare myself
Make a focused resume for individual jobs
(1) Modify my resume (2) Think more deeply about my career options ☺
Start applying to govt. labs
Develop an executive education program
Work harder at my first publication; review successful grant applications; keep an eye on job market even though I am years away
I will try for a NIH grant
Arrange a practice interview for a job
I will start looking for a post doc. Also I am attending a national meeting this summer where I will ask around about post doc positions.
Thinking about if post-doc is suitable for myself
Working on my management skills, and making myself “known” to my advisor
Seek advisors who can tell me job options for masters vs PhD graduates. Consult with my research advisor to see how I can tailor my research towards my career interests
Submit a grant

What could be improved?

I would like more time – but I don’t know if that is realistic
More mentors; list of mentors and their positions in advance of the event
Some work can be done first to make sure that each situation can be fitted to a suitable professor
Larger signs/floor plans that mention which school each mentor is from
Perhaps make the event longer next time? I enjoyed the event overall as it is, though
Longer session (but then I arrived late)
It may be nice to have more mentors
Maybe identify mentors’ strengths - some know more about academia vs. industry, faculty issues vs. students ... A map of where each is sitting would be helpful to ensure participants visit who they want to
Nothing
More mentors from outside the school. Advice from academics is always “go get your PhD” and that isn’t necessarily what everyone wants
15 minutes is NOT enough to talk about both the resume/CV and career development questions

Instead of having all professors at the event, have PhD level researchers from Industry
Improve mentor-mentee ratio or quicker rotations – was expecting more than 3 discussions in 1.5 hours
The flow process should be improved to accommodate more mentees than mentors
A list of who the mentors are to be emailed upon registration for the event
Maybe you could have someone here from the career center showing students what res areas are available on campus for finding jobs
It's good to have students find mentors in their study field easier
I would have liked a wider variety of mentors, e.g., people from industry, more professors of engineering
I would have appreciated more engineering mentors, but the non-engineering mentors were also helpful and encouraging
Confidence

What other workshops/events would help your career development?

Would like to do this again.
Career development workshop
How to prepare for job market
Grad school related (applying, researching grad schools); beginning in research (getting started)
More technical information on post docs and junior faculty with the opportunity to question someone knowledgeable. Survey information on employment in various sectors, what you can negotiate (salary, start up funds, space, appt details), trends in research specialties
Resume/CV development for science grads
Industry and academic perspectives and what you need to sell yourself at one or the other
Mixers where you interact with people who are hiring
How to network; balancing research, teaching and service in a faculty position
Graduate student funding opportunities, especially training grants; choosing the right research mentor
A workshop on how to interview would be helpful
Writing scientific papers; management skills; distinguishing myself from peers (e.g., how to be “competitive” when applying for a job)
I need help figuring out what jobs are available so I can think about which ones would be most suited for my interests. The other main issue I am facing is whether or not to get my PhD, so I need help figuring out what the pros and cons are and whether or not I need a PhD for the jobs I might be interested in